

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 17, 2001, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 45 are currently pending in the application, and claims 46 through 60 are added herein. Claims 1 through 45 stand rejected. However, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Statutory Double Patenting

Claims 1 through 7, 11 through 15, 17 through 21, 23 through 26, 29 through 32, 36, 37, and 42 through 45 are rejected in the Office Action under a statutory type double patenting rejection. Applicants, however, have herein canceled claims 1 through 7, 11 through 15, 17 through 21, 23 through 26, 29 through 32, 36, 37, and 42 through 45 herein without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicants respectfully request that the statutory double patenting rejection contained in the Office Action be withdrawn.

Non-statutory Double Patenting

Each of pending claims 10, 27, 28, 33, and 38 through 41 stand rejected under a non-statutory double patenting rejection. Applicants respectfully note, however, that each of claims 10, 27, 28, 33, and 38 through 41 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the non-statutory double patenting rejection of claims 10, 27, 28, 33, and 38 through 41 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Claims 46 through 60 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,



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